

NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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<u>UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE</u> KC FELON PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to illegally possessing a firearm.

Antonyo M. Peeler, 25, of Kansas City, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Howard F. Sachs this afternoon to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Peeler** admitted that he was in possession of a Taurus .38-caliber revolver on April 12, 2004. Under federal statutes, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Peeler** has a 2003 criminal felony conviction for sexual misconduct with a child.

Peeler was originally charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on April 20, 2004, in Kansas City.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David A. Barnes. It was investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow